

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10483 190941Z

13

ACTION SS-25

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----- 121566

P R 190840Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9615
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10483

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG SA IR
SUBJ: CRUDE OIL PRICES

1. SITTING BESIDE SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE, SULAYMAN 'ABD AL-'AZIZ AL-SULAYM, AT OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR HERE, HAD OCCASION TO ASK HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN TO CRUDE OIL PRICES AT THE OPEC MEETING IN DOHA DURING DECEMBER. SULAYMAN, WHO ARRIVED IN TEHRAN FROM RIYADH YESTERDAY, REPLIED THAT HE HAD UNTIL RECENTLY THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A PRICE INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT. HE OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDI ARABIAN INFLUENCE TOWARD RESTRAINT IN THE INCREASE HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY ACTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS THE REFUSAL TO SELL CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNEXPECTED WHITE HOUSE ACTION TO GIVE ISRAEL NEW, SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. SULAYMAN WENT TO SOME TROUBLE TO POINT OUT THAT HE WAS GIVING HIS PRIVATE VIEW, BUT IT WAS PATENT THAT THESE PROTESTATIONS WERE ONLY FOR THE RECORD. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS DISCLAIMERS, THE MINISTER WAS CLEARLY REFLECTING A VIEW SHARED BY OTHERS IN RIYADH WHICH CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS, "WHY SHOULD SAUDI ARABIA USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH OTHER ARAB NATIONS WHO WANT A GREATER PRICE INCREASE WHEN IT IS TREATED IN SUCH A DISCRIMINATORY MANNER BY THE UNITED STATES?"

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2. JIDDA MAY WISH TO COMMENT.

HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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